

## **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): An improved thread protector for tubular goods having threaded ends, the improved thread protector comprising:

a polymeric body having cylindrical wall portions defining an interior space therewithin and further having a transverse partition disposed intermediate a first end and a second end of the interior space, wherein the cylindrical wall portions of the first end engage and enclose the threaded ends of the tubular goods; and

a weather barrier incorporated in the polymeric body for maintaining a moisture resistant seal between the polymeric body and the tubular goods;

wherein the polymeric body includes a corrosion inhibiting compound impregnated into the polymeric body during molding of the polymeric body, the material of the polymeric body itself and the inclusion of the corrosion inhibiting compound resulting in a molded polymeric body which does not transmit light and is therefore opaque [[.]] ; and

wherein the weather barrier comprises:

a weather barrier ring disposed at the first end and around the polymer body for providing a weather resistant seal between the polymer body and a surface of the tubular goods adjacent the threads on the tubular goods away from an end of the tubular goods protected by the improved thread protector; and

an air vent provided in the transverse partition of the polymer body for equalizing air pressure inside the tubular goods with air pressure outside the tubular goods while limiting the passage of moisture therethrough.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The improved thread protector of claim 1, wherein the polymeric body is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, high

density polyethylene, polyurethane, polyvinylchloride, styrene-butadiene copolymers, acrylics and polycarbonates.

Claim 3 (original): The improved thread protector of claim 1, wherein the polymeric body forms an end cap wherein an internal sidewall of the cylindrical wall portion of the first end contacts an externally threaded pin end of the tubular goods.

Claim 4 (original): The improved thread protector of claim 1, wherein the polymeric body forms a cup shaped member wherein an external sidewall of the cylindrical wall portion of the first end contacts an internally threaded box end of the tubular goods.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The improved thread protector of claim 1, wherein the weather barrier ring comprises a resilient ring having one or more wiper blade edges formed around the entire length of the circumference circumferentially therearound for contacting the surface of the tubular goods to be sealed.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The improved thread protector of claim 6, wherein the wiper blade edges are formed so as to circumferentially contact an outside diameter of the tubular goods, possessing no open areas to allow the intrusion of water or moisture-laden air to enter.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The improved thread protector of claim 6, wherein the wiper blade edges are formed so as to circumferentially contact an inside diameter of the tubular goods, possessing no open areas to allow the intrusion of water or moisture-laden air to enter.

Claim 9 (original): The improved thread protector of claim 6, wherein the air vent admits air flow into or out of the tubular goods.

Claim 10 (original): The improved thread protector of claim 1, wherein the corrosion inhibitor has a characteristic flash point and wherein the flash point is selected to be above a mold temperature used to mold the polymeric body.

Claim 11 (original): The improved thread protector of claim 1, wherein the polymeric body has incorporated therein from about 1 to 20% corrosion inhibitor by volume, based upon the total

volume of the polymeric body.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The improved thread protector of claim 1, wherein the corrosion inhibitor is homogeneously dispersed and blended into the polymeric body during the mixing step.  
in the polymeric body.

Claim 13 (currently amended): In combination with an oil field tubular good having threaded ends:

a sealant composition applied to the threaded ends; and

a thread protector comprising:

a polymeric body having cylindrical wall portions defining an interior space therewithin and further having a transverse partition disposed intermediate a first end and a second end of the interior space, wherein the cylindrical wall portions of the first end engage and enclose the threaded ends of the tubular goods;

a weather barrier incorporated in the polymeric body for maintaining a moisture resistant seal between the polymeric body and the tubular goods;

wherein the polymeric body includes a corrosion inhibiting compound impregnated in the polymeric body during molding of the polymeric body, the material of the polymeric body itself and the inclusion of the corrosion inhibiting compound resulting in a molded polymeric body which does not transmit light and is therefore opaque [[.]] ; and

wherein the weather barrier comprises:

a weather barrier ring disposed at the first end and around the polymer body for providing a weather resistant seal between the polymer body and a surface of the tubular goods adjacent the threads on the tubular goods away from an end of the tubular goods protected by the improved thread protector;  
and

an air vent provided in a transverse partition of the polymer body for equalizing air pressure inside the tubular goods with air pressure outside the tubular goods while limiting the passage of moisture therethrough;

wherein the weather ring comprises:

a resilient ring having one or more wiper blade edges formed around the entire length of the circumference thereof for contacting the surface of the tubular goods to be sealed.

Claim 14 (original): The combination of claim 13, wherein the sealant composition is a liquid solution.

Claim 15 (original): The combination of claim 13, wherein the sealant composition is a thread compound or grease.

Claim 16 (original): The combination of claim 13, wherein the polymeric body forms an end cap with internal sidewalls which contact an externally threaded pin end of the tubular goods.

Claim 17 (original): The combination of claim 13, wherein the polymeric body forms a cup shaped member with external sidewalls which contact an internally threaded box end of the tubular goods.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended) The combination of claim [[19]] 13, wherein the wiper blade edges are formed so as to circumferentially contact an outside diameter of the tubular goods.

Claim 21 (currently amended) The combination of claim [[19]] 13, wherein the wiper blade edges are formed so as to circumferentially contact an inside diameter of the tubular goods.

Claim 22 (currently amended) The combination of claim [[18]] 13, wherein the air vent admits air flow into or out of the tubular goods.

Claim 23 (original): The combination of claim 13, wherein the corrosion inhibitor has a characteristic flash point and wherein the flash point is selected to be above a mold temperature used to mold the polymeric body.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The combination of claim 13, wherein the polymeric body has permanently incorporated therein from about 1 to 20% corrosion inhibitor by volume, based upon the total volume of the polymeric body.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The combination of claim 13, wherein the corrosion inhibitor is homogeneously dispersed and blended into the polymeric body during the mixing step. ~~in the polymeric body.~~

Claim 26 (withdrawn): A method of manufacturing a thread protector for tubular goods having threaded ends, the method comprising the steps of:

molding a polymeric body having cylindrical wall portions defining an interior space therewithin and further having a transverse partition disposed intermediate a first end and a second end of the interior space, wherein the cylindrical wall portions of the first end engage the threaded ends of the tubular goods;

impregnating into the polymeric body a corrosion inhibiting material during molding of the polymeric body; and

providing a weather barrier incorporated in the polymeric body for maintaining a weather resistant seal between the polymeric body and the tubular goods .

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The method of claim 26, wherein the molding step comprises forming the polymeric body from a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, high density polyethylene, polyurethane, polyvinylchloride, styrene-butadiene copolymers, acrylics and polycarbonates.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The method of claim 26, wherein the molding step comprises forming the polymeric body by mixing waste polymeric materials, and/or new polymeric materials, in a thermokinetic compounder/mixer at elevated temperatures to form a blended polymeric product, followed by discharging the polymeric product into a suitable mold.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The method of claim 26, wherein the impregnating step comprises providing a corrosion inhibitor having a characteristic flash point above a mold temperature used to mold the polymeric body.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The method of claim 29, wherein the mold temperature used to mold the polymeric body is in the range from about 300-400°F.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): The method of claim 26, wherein the impregnating step further comprises incorporating into the polymeric body from about 1 to 20% corrosion inhibitor by volume, based upon the total volume of the polymeric body.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): A method of recycling used end caps used to protect threaded ends of oil field tubular goods, the method comprising the steps of:

collecting the used end caps at a central location;

shredding and grinding the collected, used end caps to thereby reduce them to particle size;

conveying the shredded and ground particles to a thermokinetic blender;

mixing the particles with a corrosion inhibitor in the thermokinetic blender at elevated temperatures to form a blended polymeric product;

molding the blended polymeric product in a suitable mold to form a molded polymeric body having cylindrical walls;

discharging the molded polymeric body from the mold; and

threading selected portions of the cylindrical walls of the polymeric body, whereby the threaded selected portions of the cylindrical walls are adapted to matingly engage a selected end of the oil field tubular goods.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the mixing step comprises providing a corrosion inhibitor having a characteristic flash point above a mold temperature used to mold the polymeric body.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): The method of claim 33, wherein the mold temperature used to mold the polymeric body is in the range from about 300-400°F.

Claim 35 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the step of molding the blended polymeric product comprises the step of forming the polymeric body from a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, high density polyethylene, polyurethane, polyvinylchloride, styrene-butadiene copolymers, acrylics and polycarbonates.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32, wherein the molding step further comprises incorporating into the polymeric body from about 1 to 20% corrosion inhibitor by volume, based upon the total volume of the polymeric body.